

# History in Africa

**A JOURNAL OF METHOD**



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# HISTORY IN AFRICA

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**David Henige, Editor**

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Luba painted wooden and china-clay mask, Zaïre.

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[s]everal things dovetailed in my mind, & at once it struck me, what quality went to form a Man of Achievement. I mean *Negative Capability*, that is when man is capable of being in uncertainties, Mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason...

*John Keats*

The flagrantly contradictory statements of eyewitnesses had reached my ears and amazed me, and my difficulties increased...the Sovereign testing me, and I with my eyes open observing these manifold discrepancies. By deep reflection and a careful scrutiny, taking up the principal points in which there was general agreement, my satisfaction increased, and where the narrators differed from each other I based my presentation of facts on a footing of discriminate investigation of exact and cautious statements, and this somewhat set my mind at ease. Where an event had contrary accounts from equally credible persons, or anything reached me opposed to my own view of the question, I submitted it to His Majesty and freed myself from responsibility.

*Abul Fazl, <sup>c</sup>Ain-i-Akbari*

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